

Grace Notes



2021

Our monthly consideration of God's gift of prayer continues this month with the Conclusion of the Lord's Prayer: "For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen."

The explanation given in the Small Catechism focuses particularly on the word "Amen." The Catechism teaches us: "This means that I should be certain that these petitions are pleasing to our Father in heaven, and are heard by Him; for He Himself has commanded us to pray in this way and has promised to hear us. Amen, amen means 'yes, yes, it shall be so.'"

"Amen" is so much more than a word that we throw on the end of our prayers to let everyone know that we've finished. "Amen" is a word of faith. The word "amen" should only be uttered in response to things that we know are true. That's why, for example, it is appropriate to say, "Amen," after a person is baptized or after the pastor says, "This is the Body of Christ for you," and he places the host into your hand. In both cases, you know it is true. You know the person has been received as a child of God in the water and the Word, and you know you are receiving the true Body of Christ in the Sacrament. You know these things to be true because God has promised them, and so you speak, "Amen," with confidence.

The same is true for the Lord's Prayer. You know that the petitions that you have prayed are true and certain because Jesus is the One who gave them to you to pray. The Son of God Himself is the One who has commanded you to pray these petitions to God the Father. For that reason, there is no doubt that God will answer. You know that God wants His name to be holy in your life. You know that God wants to bring His kingdom to you. You know that God wants to accomplish His will for your life. You know that God wants to give you what you need for this life. You know that God wants to forgive your sins and inspire the same forgiveness in you. You know that God wants to keep you safe from temptation. You know that God wants to deliver you from the devil and his attacks.

You know that each of these petitions pleases God because Jesus has given them to you to pray. For this reason, you can speak "Amen" confidently at the end of the Lord's Prayer, knowing that God will hear and answer this prayer for your greatest good.

A brief word is in order concerning the lengthier doxology that we speak at the conclusion of the Lord's Prayer. The words, "For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever" are likely not a part of the inspired text of Matthew 6 or Luke 11, the two places the Lord's Prayer is found in the Bible. These words are likely a very early liturgical response of the congregation to the Lord's Prayer when it was prayed in the Divine Service. That these words have a long-standing use among Christians is evident from the fact that these words are found in the *Didache*, a first-century Christian document that served as a sort of catechism in the early Church. For this reason, it is certainly appropriate that we continue to use them as Christians, even if we need not insist upon their use for the Lord's Prayer to be "legitimate."

The content of this longer conclusion certainly fits the character of the prayer. Our Father in heaven is the King over all creation who has all good gifts under His direction (Psalm 103:2-3). Our Father in heaven is all-powerful to answer our prayers (Ephesians 3:20-21). Our Father in heaven has all glory and receives all our praise (Psalm 113:4-5). These things are true now and forever (1 Timothy 1:17).

I pray that this journey through the Lord's Prayer has been beneficial for you, and I look forward to continuing to explore God's gift of prayer with you through other Scriptural prayers in the coming months. God grant that every time we pray for those things He has commanded and promised that we would utter our "Amen" with complete confidence in Him as our Father who hears and answers us with every good gift.

In Christ,
Pastor Appel

November 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 7pm Elders  Elders Meeting	2	3 5:30pm-Youth Confirmation	4 6pm LWML 	5 Pastor Away-Family Day	6
7 8:45am Adult Bible Study 10am Worship/Communion 11am-Family Sunday School	8 5pm-Quilting 7pm LLL	9 9am Pastor Circuit Mtg	10 5:30pm-Youth Confirmation	11 Veterans Day	12 Pastor Away-Family Day	13
14 8:45am Adult Bible Study 10am Worship/Communion 11am-Family Sunday School	15 6pm GLLC Mtg	16	17 5:30pm-Youth Confirmation	18	19 Pastor Away-Family Day	20
21 8:45am Adult Bible Study 10am Worship/Communion 11am-Family Sunday School	22 8am Braille 5pm Quilting	23	24 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE/NOON  7pm-Thanksgiving Eve Worship	25 Thanksgiving Day	26 Pastor Away-Family Day	27
28 8:45am Adult Bible Study 10am Worship/Communion 11am-Family Sunday School	29	30				

Grace Lutheran Church

308 Byrne Street
Smithville, TX 78957
Office Phone: (512) 237-2108
Fax Line: (512) 237-2832

Email address: gracelutheransmithville@gmail.com
Web Site: www.glcs.org

Sunday School 8:45 AM
Midweek Classes 8:45 AM
Worship Service 10:00 AM

Elders: Brad Zimmerhazel
Tommy Oates

Nov Altar Guild: Toni Ann Kadlecsek
Sharon Reinberg

Organist(s):
June Parker
Esther Wolff
Kim Appel
Ruth Eaton



As of October 28, 2021

Name	Balance
<u>Prosperity Checking Acct</u>	76,080.74
<u>CEF-General</u>	2,470.38
<u>CEF-Land/Youth</u>	12,432.30
<u>CEF Scholarship</u>	12,585.57
<u>Legacy Deo</u>	13,322.99
<u>Total Dedicated Funds</u>	30,532.79
<u>General Fund Balance</u>	45,547.95

If your birthday or anniversary does not appear correctly, please contact the church office so we can correct our files. Thank you.

Grace Lutheran Learning Center

401 Wilkes Street
Smithville, TX 78957
Office Phone: 512-360-2800
Fax Number: 512-237-5990

Email address: gracelutheranlearn@att.net

We now accept CCMS enrollment

Please feel free to put old or unused toys in our box located in the Narthex

Pastor Timothy Appel

If you need to contact him, his email address is: timothyappel@gmail.com and his home phone number is 512-237-9664, or contact our Office at 512-237-2108. If you are not able to reach either number and it is an emergency, contact your Elder. (Elders list on bulletin board by the Office)



There is a plastic container in the Narthex for collection of **used bulletins & white printed papers** to be recycled at the Smithville Recycling facility. If there are any questions please ask Katie or John Stelling for info

CHURCH OFFICE

Normal hours are 9 to 2 Mon. – Fri. If you need any help from the office i.e., copying documents, record information, info to be put in the bulletin and/or newsletter, etc., please feel free to stop by, call, etc. We are there to provide you with whatever you need from the church office. You may also leave a note in the Secretary's box in the Narthex, and we will get back with you as soon as possible. Please let us know if you have any questions or suggestions.



In the Hospital

If you are admitted to the hospital, I would like to visit you in order to share God's Word and share a prayer with you in that difficult time. As you are able please let the church office know or ask the hospital to call the church office so that I can best minister to you. **Pastor Appel**

KFUO Bible Study Resources

Looking for Bible study opportunities during the week? Make use of the fantastic resources for growth in your Christian faith produced by our very own LCMS radio station, KFUE (www.kfuo.org). Their variety of programs will provide something of value to every person who listens. Of particular interest for Grace, every weekday morning at 8



AM, you can hear Pastor Appel host the Bible study, *Sharper Iron*, with guest pastors from around the country. If you can't catch the show live, you can listen to archived episodes at www.kfuo.org/category/sharper-iron/.



NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Nov. 15	Katie & Jaysen Swartz
Nov. 17	Debbie & Tommy Higgins
Nov. 27	Vicki & Robert Vinklerek



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Nov. 4	Debbie Hampton
	Chuck Stem
Nov. 5	Philip Appel
	Cheryl Moore
Nov. 8	Olivia Larkin
	Phillip Hellman
Nov. 9	Rose Pietsch
Nov. 12	Mary Ann Duty
Nov. 14	Aaron Owens
	Andrew Stem
Nov. 15	Marilyn Burns
Nov. 19	William Miller
Nov. 21	Kellye Geigenmiller
Nov. 24	Kaylee Wolff
Nov. 28	Alex Caldwell



Braille volunteers meet the 4th Monday of each month @ 8am. We carpool to Immanuel Lutheran Church in Giddings to assemble braille bible study books.



Grace and First Presbyterian partner on November 8th through 13th. This is our last rotation this year. The store is closed the week of the 22nd for Thanksgiving and the Christmas closure will be from December 20th to January 3rd. Donations are accepted from 9am to 2pm on Friday and Saturday. Thank everyone for their generous donations and our faithful customers. Join us as you are able.

Opportunities to Receive God's Gifts

When you are not able to make it to the weekly Divine Service on a regular basis, please know that opportunities to receive the gifts of God at other times are available. I encourage you to be in touch with me to let me know how I can deliver these gifts of God to you, because no Christian should go without God's gifts in Word and Sacrament. When circumstances do not allow you to join the congregation for a time, I certainly encourage you to make use of the Facebook livestream to hear the Scriptures and the sermon; I also would welcome the opportunity to set an appointment with you to study God's Word with you and bring you the Body and Blood of Jesus on an individual basis. ***This offer is made in earnest. You are not imposing on my time by requesting this of me; this is precisely why God has given time to me.*** Please let me know how I can best serve you in Christ's name! –Pastor Appel



Pastoral Check-Up

Many go to their doctor regularly to check on their physical health; why not do the same with your pastor concerning your spiritual health? I know that the previous year was difficult in many respects. How has your Christian faith been challenged? How has your Christian faith grown? Let's visit! The precautions of a pandemic aren't so great that a pastoral visit is impossible. Let's find some time to talk so that I can minister to you with the Word of God so that your faith in Christ will grow even in the midst of this life's troubles and trials.



Wishing these Friends a Happy Birthday! from your "Grace" family

If your birthday or anniversary does not appear correctly, please contact the church office so we can correct our files. Thank you.



Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service

Our congregation gathers on **Wednesday, November 24 at 7 PM** to give thanks to God for all that He has done and continues to do through His Son Jesus Christ. As a part of our service that evening, it is our congregation's custom to receive donations for the Smithville Food Pantry (due to the ongoing pandemic, we will not share loaves of bread this year). Donations of non-perishable food items to the Smithville Food Pantry may be brought to church all month long through Thanksgiving Eve. Even though Thanksgiving may look different in our country this year, the blessings of our heavenly Father still abound far more than we could ever ask. Please make plans to join us for this special worship service.

Advent Midweek Services

The season of Advent begins this year on Sunday, November 28. As the first season of the Church Year, Advent prepares our hearts to receive Christ with repentance at His final coming on the Last Day even as we anticipate the joyous celebration of His first coming on Christmas. Each year, we have midweek services on Wednesday evenings to aid us in this devotional task. Join us at 7 PM on December 1, 8, 15, and 22 this year for a time of prayer, singing, and God's Word.





Dear Member of Grace Lutheran Church,

As you are aware the Board of Education set up an endowment fund several years ago in an effort to help with Christian Education for our youth here at Grace. Also, as everyone is aware we all had to rearrange our lives last year due to Covid. Because of both of these events we have a fund for education set aside in the account for Grace Lutheran at our local bank. This has happened for a few reasons some of which are youth being home schooled last year causing the funds from the Endowment fund to not be allocated last year, and donations from Grace members to a scholarship fund allocated to benefit our youth in their education. The Board decided to keep these funds in our local bank instead of reinvesting back to the endowment fund so that the funds would be easy to access now that school is starting to be back in person.

That said, this is the time of year where we are all looking for a donation source that would give us a tax deduction. We are asking that you would consider donating to the education fund that we have locally so that when our youth are in need of tuition assistance, we would have the ability to access the funds at the time of need. In the Board's discussion of funds, we decided to keep funds locally as they would be secure, with the uncertainty of the stock market and the fact that we only receive funds from the Endowment when there has been interest earned, it was impossible to know if we would receive any funds at the end of the year from the endowment, and or how much would be received. You are always welcome to donate to the Endowment fund at any time as well if that is something you are more interested in.

The endowment fund is set and can only be utilized for educational purposes. Meaning if we ever needed a new building for education or wanted to help build an educational building in our area, we can petition for that money to be used for such an event. We can not just take the money out of the endowment and use it for non-educational activities.

If you have any questions regarding either of the above-mentioned funds, please feel free to contact a board member or Pastor with your questions.

Our Board members for this year are: Charlie Johannessen, Toni Ann Kadlecek, Kathy Kasper, Mary Lou Oliver, Melissa Brown, June Parker, Barb Johannessen and the Sunday School Superintendent is Donna Zimmerhanzel. Please feel free to contact any of us at any time if you have questions.

May God Bless all of you.

Respectfully,
Barb Johannessen

Family Sunday School

Family Sunday School continues at Grace! Please join us after the 11:00AM service each Sunday to learn and rejoice in the Word of God together as the family of Jesus here at Grace! This class is intended for anyone and everyone; whether you are single or married or have lots of kids or have no kids,

you are welcome to join us to learn God's Word together. Tables are spaced appropriately throughout the parish hall, with one family per table. Pastor introduces a new Bible story each week, and our learning includes both activities done as individual families and as a large group. We also include a hymn and a craft each week. We finish about 11:45 am. Please join us to learn God's Word together as families and as a congregation!



Adult Bible Study

Adult Bible study at 8:45 AM has resumed! We are studying God's Word in the Psalms that He invites us to speak back to Him in prayer. Each week has included a fantastic study and conversation so far; please join us!



Youth Confirmation

Youth confirmation classes continue each Wednesday evening this fall in the parish hall from 5:30-6:30 PM. Please keep our 7th and 8th graders and their families in your prayers as they grow in the knowledge and grace of God's Holy Word.



FAITH LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL OF CENTRAL TEXAS

Faith Lutheran High School of Central Texas seeks to engage young adults in a Christ-centered environment where faith and knowledge grow as one.

**HOME OF THE FALCONS!
Transformed - Romans 12:2**

Basketball Season Underway

Basketball season started this week. We have a very excited group of boys ready to begin this new program for FLHS. Information will be coming soon regarding schedules so you can make plans to come cheer on your Falcons!

Cross Country Meet

Faith Lutheran High School is hosting the 3rd Annual Private Schools of Central Texas Cross Country Meet on Friday, November 5th for students in K to 8th Grade with the first race at 2pm. We are excited to host this fun event!

Junior High Game Night

FLHS will be hosting a game night for 7th and 8th grade students on Friday, November 12th from 6:00 pm until 9:00 pm at Faith Lutheran High School. We will have lots of food, fun, and fellowship! Please join us for this fun evening!

Thanksgiving Chapel and Feast

Join us Wednesday, November 17th, beginning at 10:30 am for our 5th Annual Thanksgiving Celebration. Rev. Thomas Obersat will be leading us in worship and students will be assisting with music. Stay and fellowship with us during our pot-luck Thanksgiving feast lunch, immediately following chapel.

Free Wednesday mornings?

Join us for our weekly Chapel Worship Service every Wednesday, beginning at 10:30 am.

Shadow Days

Shadow days are a great opportunity for prospective students to follow us for a day and experience what FLHS is all about. Parents, call us at (979) 242-2889 today to set up a shadow day for your child.

Amazon Smile and Wish List

Did you know Faith Lutheran High School is on Amazon Smile? After you select FLHS as the charity of your choice, everytime you purchase something from Amazon Smile, FLHS will receive a donation. FLHS has also created a wish list on Amazon, for needed materials for this school year. The easiest way to find it is by clicking on the link on the FLHS Facebook page or website. Thank you for your generous support!

Thank you!

There have been so many people, organizations, groups and churches who have contributed to the success and growth of FLHS - through our fall envelope fundraiser, wish list items, and so much more. Thank you, on behalf of the students who will be instilled with wisdom as they become faithful leaders tomorrow, for your generous support. THANK YOU!!

Share the Gift of Love

Faith Lutheran High School has a unique role in combining knowledge and God's love in a student's high school experience. We are partnering with families at the intersection of education and faith development. If you would like to support our ministry through a one-time or enduring gift, memorial contribution, or a Thrivent Action Grant, please contact us.





LWML

Lutheran Women in Mission

UPCOMING:

Nov 4th
6pm-Business Mtg
and devotion in
Bastrop

Nov. 6th
LWR ingathering

Nov 8th
5pm-Quilting

We welcome you to join us in "Serving the Lord with Gladness." Please contact any LWML member or Sharon Reinberg at 512-923-8222 to learn more or go to www.lwml.org or www.lwmltxdist.org to read about the mission and great history of LWML.

November 26 to 28th - Sometime during this weekend we will decorate the parish hall Christmas Tree as the LWML/LLL Christmas event is Thursday December 2nd

The business meeting and devotion will be held on Thursday November 4th 6PM at the home of Sharon Reinberg.
Devotion- "Preparing our hearts for Advent"

New officers for 2022-23 for Grace:
President- June Parker, Vice President-Rose Pietsch, Secretary- Mary Lou Oliver, Treasurer-Margie Hicks

Lutheran World Relief items made by Grace LWML - 89 quilts, 100 school bags filled with school supplies

They will be taken to Rutersville on Saturday morning November 6th and then transported to Houston. They are then shipped to Baltimore, Maryland to be stored until needed.

Donations to the large Mite Box in the Narthex are joyfully accepted.

LWML TEXAS DISTRICT GRANT BULLETIN BYTES:

The 42nd Biennial Texas District Convention will be held June 16-18 2022 in Houston West at the Hyatt Regency. Opening services on Thursday at 7:30PM, first convention session on Friday at 8:30 AM and convention concluding on Saturday at noon. The theme this year is "Great is His Faithfulness"

National Mission Grant Bulletin Bytes:

Healing the Invisible Wounds of War through Horses Spirit Warrior, Central Maine — \$95,000

Maine is among the list of "least churched" states in the nation. It has only three LCMS churches in the entire state and has only five Veteran Administration Chaplains. Deaconess Kim Slininger was called to Hope Lutheran Church to reach out to the extensive veteran and military community in the Bangor area. Deaconess Kim is herself a disabled veteran, and the Spirit Warrior program is an extension of her ministry. Spirit Warrior is a program that addresses the need to provide pastoral/diaconal care using horses, to those who have stood in the face of evil and have returned. Current traditional therapy does not address the care of the spirit. Many veterans/service members want to connect with God and theological discussions take place while caring for the horses. This grant will provide funding for 58 veterans to go through the program.



The Widow's Mite --- And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which make a penny. And he called his disciples to him and said to them, "Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on." Mark 12:42-44 ESV

Read Through the Bible in 2021

Grace Lutheran Church, Smithville, TX

“God’s Word is our great heritage and shall be ours forever!” Continue your daily Bible reading during 2021. God’s blessings for you in His Word abound! *(Note: On days listed as “OFF,” consider re-reading something from earlier in the week or making up a day that you might have missed.)*

Readings for the Month of November

November 1	Mark 9:14-50	Jeremiah 48-49
November 2	Mark 10:1-31	Jeremiah 50-51
November 3	Proverbs 25	Psalms 119:121-160
November 4	OFF	
November 5	Mark 10:32-52	Jeremiah 52
November 6	Mark 11	Lamentations 1-3
November 7	Mark 12	Lamentations 4-5
November 8	Mark 13:1-31	Ezekiel 1-5
November 9	Mark 13:32-37	Ezekiel 6-9
November 10	Proverbs 26	Psalms 119:161-176; Psalms 120-122
November 11	OFF	
November 12	Mark 14:1-42	Ezekiel 10-12
November 13	Mark 14:43-72	Ezekiel 13-15
November 14	Mark 15	Ezekiel 16-17
November 15	Mark 16	Ezekiel 18-20
November 16	II John	Ezekiel 21-23
November 17	Proverbs 27	Psalms 123-128
November 18	OFF	
November 19	III John	Ezekiel 24-27
November 20	Hebrews 1-2	Ezekiel 28-31
November 21	Hebrews 3-4:13	Ezekiel 32-34
November 22	Hebrews 4:14-6:20	Ezekiel 35-38
November 23	Hebrews 7	Ezekiel 39-41
November 24	Proverbs 28	Psalms 129-132
November 25	OFF	
November 26	Hebrews 8-9	Ezekiel 42-44
November 27	Hebrews 10:1-18	Ezekiel 45-48
November 28	Hebrews 10:19-39	Daniel 1-3
November 29	Hebrews 11	Daniel 4-6
November 30	Hebrews 12	Daniel 7-9